

In the claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A coating device with a rotary atomizer mounted on a coating machine, with a turbine motor of the rotary atomizer driven by a fluid stream, with a shaft of the rotating atomizer driven by the turbine motor and being supported by a bearing unit, with an inlet path through which the fluid stream is supplied under pressure to a turbine wheel of the turbine motor, and with an outlet path through which the fluid stream at a lower-pressure evacuates from the bearing unit, the device comprising:

a heating device for heating one of the fluid stream flowing through the turbine wheel, the inlet path, and the outlet path.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The coating device according to claim 1 wherein the heating device is located outside of the rotary atomizer.

4. (Previously Amended) The coating device according to claim 1 wherein the heating device has a heat exchanger positioned along both the inlet path and the outlet path.

5. (Previously Amended) The coating device according to claim 1 wherein the bearing unit includes channels separate from the inlet and outlet paths with a medium heated by the heating device flowing through said channels.

6. (Currently Amended) The coating device according to claim 1 further comprising:

at least one temperature sensor.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the operation of a coating device with a rotary atomizer, in which a fluid stream drives a turbine motor and is supplied under pressure to a turbine wheel of the turbine motor through an inlet path and is led out as lower-pressure exhaust gas through an outlet path passing through a bearing unit (101) comprising the step of:

heating the fluid stream with a heating device.

9. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 8 wherein the heating step is further defined as heating the fluid stream both upstream and downstream of the turbine motor.

10. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

directing an air stream through; and
heating the air stream before the directing step.

11. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

directing a stream of the steering air around the rotary atomizer; and
heating the stream of steering air before the step of directing the steering air.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

14. (Previously presented) A coating device comprising:
a turbine including an inlet for receiving a first fluid stream and an outlet for evacuating the first fluid stream and a rotatable shaft;
a bearing supporting the shaft of the turbine in rotation;
a rotary atomizer connected to the shaft and positioned externally with respect to the housing adjacent the second end and including a bell-shaped plate;
at least one steering passage for communicating a second fluid stream towards the bell-shaped plate; and
a heater for heating at least one of the first fluid stream, the second fluid stream and the bearing.

15. (Previously presented) The coating device of claim 14 wherein the heater heats the first fluid stream and is positioned upstream of the inlet.

16. (Previously presented) The coating device of claim 14 wherein the heater heats the first fluid stream and is positioned downstream of the outlet.

17. (Previously presented) The coating device of claim 14 wherein the heater heats the first fluid stream upstream of the inlet and downstream of the outlet.

18. (Previously presented) The coating device of claim 14 wherein the heater heats the bearing.

19. (Previously presented) The coating device of claim 18 wherein the bearing is an air bearing and the heater heats an air stream passing through the bearing.

20. (Previously presented) In a coating device including a rotary atomizer for directing a stream of coating material toward a workpiece and a turbine for rotating the rotary atomizer, the improvement comprising:

a heater for heating at least portion of the coating device to prevent condensation.

21. (Previously presented) A coating device comprising:

a housing having a first end defining a first aperture and a second end defining a second aperture and a longitudinal axis extending between the first aperture at a first end and second ends;

a turbine positioned in the housing including an inlet and an outlet and a rotatable shaft;

an inlet passage for communicating a first fluid stream between the first aperture of the housing and the inlet of the turbine;

an outlet passage for communicating the first fluid stream between the outlet of the turbine and the first aperture;

a bearing supporting the shaft of the turbine in rotation;

a rotary atomizer connected to the shaft and positioned externally with respect to the housing adjacent the second end and including a bell-shaped plate;

at least one steering passage for communicating a second fluid stream between the first and second apertures;

a nozzle in communication with the at least one steering passage to direct the fluid stream towards the bell-shaped plate; and

a heater for heating at least one of the first fluid stream, the second fluid stream and the bearing.